

What is claimed is:

5           1.       A multi-port receptacle comprising:  
a housing defining at least two ports, each port including:  
a)       first end defining an opening for receiving a module;  
b)       a second end defining a wall;  
c)       a passageway formed between the first end and the second end;  
d)       a base having a cut-out portion adjacent the second end; and  
e)       an electrical connector mounted within the second end, the electrical connector  
including contacts that are exposed by the cut-out portion of the base so that upon mounting of  
10 the multi-port receptacle to a motherboard the exposed contacts may also be simultaneously  
aligned to the motherboard.

          2. The multi-port receptacle assembly of claim 1, wherein the base is formed by a plate  
extending and enclosing approximately an entire side of the housing.

15           3. The multi-port receptacle assembly of claim 1, wherein the base includes first  
mounting features for latching to corresponding second mounting features of the housing.

          4. The multi-port receptacle assembly of claim 1 comprising a housing injection molded  
of plastic.

          5. The multi-port receptacle assembly of claim 1, wherein the base is formed of a metal  
plate.

6. A multi-port receptacle of claim 1, wherein the ports include a first mounting guide and the electrical connector includes a second mounting guide to correspondingly engage the first mounting guides in order to mount the electrical connector within the port.

5 7. A multi-port receptacle of claim 1, wherein the base includes a ejection spring support at a second end having the cut-out formed therein.

8. The multi-port receptacle assembly of claim 7, wherein the contacts of the electrical connector are generally coplanar with the cutout and a major surface of the base.

9. A multi-port receptacle assembly of claim 8, wherein the ejection spring support includes ground tabs protruding into the passageway of the port.

10. The multi-port receptacle of claim 1, wherein the housing is metalized.

11. The multi-port receptacle assembly of claim 1, wherein the housing is plated.

12. The multi-port receptacle assembly of claim 1, wherein the base is segmented by a group of at least six first mounting features forming a perimeter of each said segment and a plurality of second mounting features of the housing corresponding to the first mounting features in order to securely attach the housing and base together.

13. A method of assembling a multi-port receptacle comprising the steps of:  
providing a base having a first mounting feature;  
providing a housing that defines at least two ports and including a second mounting feature, a first end and a second end;  
20 mounting an electrical connector within the second end of each port; and

mounting the housing to a base having the first mounting feature mated to the second mounting feature of the housing.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the electrical connector is slidably engaged within each port of the housing along mounting guides protruding within the port.

5 15. The method of claim 13 including the step of inserting the base horizontally along the passageway of each port so that an ejection spring support of the base having a cutout slides over the electrical connector mounted therein.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the ejection spring support of the base is received within a gap defined between the electrical connector and the second end of the housing.

10 17. The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of inserting the base vertically into each port so that the first mounting features latch with the second mounting features.

18. The method of assembling a multi-port receptacle of claim 15, wherein the first mounting feature is a tab protruding perpendicularly from the base and the second mounting feature is a boss protruding from the side of the housing.

15 19. The method of assembling a multi-port receptacle of claim 15 further comprising the steps of mounting the assembled multi-port receptacle assembly to a motherboard where mounting pegs on the base of the multi-port receptacle assembly are aligned and mounted to holes in a motherboard simultaneously with the alignment of contact tails of the electrical connector to the motherboard.

20 20. The method of assembling a multi-port receptacle of claim 15 further comprising the steps of placing a bezel over the first end of the housing which forms a nose having ground tabs

to mechanically and electrically abut the bezel in order to assist in an electrical connection in order to provide a portion of the housing of the multi-port receptacle assembly at the same ground potential as the bezel.

21. An integral multi-port module receptacle for making electrical connection, the  
5 receptacle comprising:

a housing forming at least two ports, each port including a first end for receiving a module therein, a second end having an electrical connector and a passageway formed between the first end and the second end and each port is formed on at least three sides by walls formed by the housing and on a fourth side by a base plate, wherein the base plate includes an aperture from which the electrical connector is exposed.

22. The receptacle of claim 21, wherein the port includes a pair of mounting guides and the electrical connector includes a pair of channels on the sides of the electrical connector for slidingly engaging the pair of mounting guides.

23. The receptacle of claim 21, wherein the aperture is formed by a cut-out in the base plate.

24. The receptacle of claim 21, wherein the receptacle only has  $2 + n$  parts.